

Soldiers *Online*

SPC Chris Putman



Soldiers of the Army Reserve's 88th Regional Support Command control a "prisoner" during training at Fort Knox's "Doom City" Military Operations in Urban Terrain site.

Fort Knox, Ky.

MOUT Perfection: Above Conventional Thinking

PRACTICE makes perfect. That's the conventional thinking for training scenarios. And although it can never cover all of the situations soldiers may face, the "Doom City" Military Operations in Urban Terrain site here provided plenty of practice for the Reserve units visiting it this year.

One group, combined units of the 342nd Military Police Company, 447th MP Co. and

Headquarters and Hqs. Co., 391st MP Battalion, came to "Doom City" to hone their skills in medevac, forced-entry, room-clearing and mounted-escort operations.

Soldiers began the training by walking through the scenarios several times, with the speed picking up each time. By the end of the weekend, the training was being played out at full speed, complete with pyrotechnics and hostile demonstrators.

"We had some good hostile-demonstrator exercises," said MAJ Mark Arnold, com-

mander of the 391st MP Bn. "Our troops had to deal with the hostile environments that they could face." Arnold himself acted as a hostile demonstrator during one phase of training, giving him a different view of his troops' actions.

Teamwork was stressed in each training scenario throughout the weekend. Teams moved through each structure in room-clearing exercises, clearing each building room by room while watching out for each other. At a mock-up of an embassy building and compound, it was teamwork and vigilance

that kept the area secure.

"This will make us better oriented as to what could happen and how to react," said SGT Daniel Smith of the 447th MP Co. "It will help us pick out disturbance leaders and get them out of the crowd before things get out of control."

The MOUT site is equipped with a high-decibel and multidirectional sound system and impressive pyrotechnic effects to add realism to the experience. Video cameras record each mission, to provide study and improvement on each training run.

"I think that, with this kind of training, we are taking the battalion to a new level of readiness," Arnold said. — *SPC Chris Putman, 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Nampula, Mozambique

Army Engineers Improve Clinics

WHILE a group of Air Force medics and a Navy corpsman provided medical care to Mozambique civilians in and around Nampula, a team of Army engineers improved the conditions of three medical clinics in the area.

The Germany-based soldiers, 10 from the 94th Engineer Battalion in Hohenfels and one from Company B, 249th Engr. Bn., in Heidelberg, were part of Exercise MEDFLAG 01-02, which ended in August.

At the Rapale Medical Clinic in Nampula the engineers upgraded electrical systems and built a kitchen. Improvements included installation of lights, outlets and a fuse box with circuit breakers. Previously, there were only two light bulbs and two outlets in the entire clinic. The kitchen is a nine-foot by 15-foot addition, with a brick stove containing two cooking surfaces.

The soldiers also built another brick stove, upgraded electrical systems and installed a water pump and backup generator at the Anchilo Medical Clinic in Nampula. At the third clinic, in Marrera, they installed window and door screens to help keep out mosquitoes.

Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Panosian, 48th Expeditionary Medical Squadron commander, said the electrical upgrades expand the clinics' capabilities, the water pump brings in running water to improve hygiene,

and the kitchen facilities improve the clinics' safety and ability to feed patients.

"While the medical care, training, equipment and supplies provided by our medics are quite beneficial and will have lasting benefits," Panosian said, "the work the engineers did are capital improvements that will truly have long-term benefits." — *Tech. Sgt. Ann Bennett, Air Force Print News*

SGT Robert Schultz, a prime-power production specialist, installs a circuit breaker in a fuse box at the Rapale Clinic during Exercise MEDFLAG 01-02.



Tech. Sgt. Ann Bennett

Fort McPherson, Ga.

"Cop-etition" Tests Military and Civilian Police

THE U.S. Army Garrison's Military Police Special Operations Team from Fort McPherson was one of 14 teams that competed in the recent Southeastern Special Weapons and Tactics Conference and Training event in Spartanburg, S.C.

Eight garrison SOT soldiers competed against two other military and 11 civilian law-enforcement teams in a variety of events that challenged participants and tested their capabilities in elite police skills. The events included hostage-rescue scenarios, obstacle courses, rappelling and shooting competitions.

The soldiers also attended classes on various aspects of law enforcement, giving them an opportunity to get hands-on experience and training with some of the field's latest equipment.

SSG David J. Fullmer, the SOT's NCOIC, said the event was a good one for the soldiers to receive training and to work together as a team.

"Overall it was a great opportunity to learn and lead soldiers," he said.

The team members said none of them had participated in this type of competition before. The team placed ninth in the event.

The team members who competed were 1LT Christina R. Kirkland; SSG David J. Fullmer; SGT Darius Gist; SGT Eddie R. Goynes; SGT Toby L. Hansen; SGT Jimmy R. Wathen; SPC George W. Ellison III; SPC Erik R. Miller; and SPC Michael A. Odle. — *Jamie Danesi U.S. Army Forces Command PAO*



Jamie Danesi

SGT Toby Hansen helps SGT Eddie Goynes hook his harness to a rope. The suspended Goynes was then pulled across an obstacle course.

More Postmarks

From Army Posts Around the World

Pattaya District, Thailand

Veterinary Outreach Program

WHEN many people think of Thailand, they think big — as in elephant-big. When soldiers working with local veterinarians here provided vaccinations and basic treatment to abandoned dogs and cats, they, too, thought big. They even examined an elephant suffering from an infected toenail.

"We'll do what we can for any animal we find, big or small," said CPT Kim Lawler of Western Pacific District Veterinary Command, Guam. Lawler was part of a U.S. team of two veterinarians and one veterinary technician participating in this

year's Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercise.

CARAT is the Navy's premier bilateral exercise in the Western Pacific, intended to enhance regional cooperation, increase interoperability and build military-to-military and personal relationships. In addition to extensive at-sea operational exercises that refine navigation and seamanship skills, community-outreach programs such as the veterinarian civic action project round out the CARAT plan.

The Army is the only branch of the armed forces with veterinarians, and so participates in naval exercises to get field experience and practice a variety of animal-care tasks. Army vet-

erinarians' primary mission is to inspect the military's food supply.

The team visited the Wat Yan Sangwarum Buddhist temple and nearby Royal Thai Forestry Refuge, not only to provide aid to the animals but also to prevent health problems in the communities where the animals live. During CARAT, the team gave the animals vaccinations, deworming medication, and flea and tick medication.

The other team members were CPT Wayne Lipovitch, a member of the Rocky Mountain Veterinary district at Fort Carson, Colo.; and SSG Theodore Plemons, who is assigned to Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii. — *JO1 Joseph*

Krypel, Destroyer Squadron One Public Affairs Office

Dhofar, Oman

Demining Training Continues in Oman

OMAN has been at peace for years, and the majority of its citizens have never encountered a land mine. But parts of the country are littered with mines from past skirmishes, and records of the mines' locations are hard to find. In other cases, where there may be faded, handwritten records, heavy rains have often carried the mines some distance from where they were originally placed.

Soldiers from the Third U.S. Army and Army Forces Central Command's humanitarian demining team are instructing engineer soldiers from the Royal Army of Oman on how to locate, deactivate and remove these mines.

"The goal is to reclaim the mined areas for civilian use," said MAJ Darrell Strother, commander of the 25-man training team. The training lasts for 90 days and is broken into three main areas: demining, information management and mine awareness.

"When we go into a country for humanitarian demining, we don't go into the minefields and start clearing it for them," Strother said. "By regulation, we cannot go into any minefield. We're here to train the Royal Army of Oman's engineers to United Nations international demining standards, then we watch the RAO trainers instruct their fellow soldiers."

Classroom work takes time, due to both the language barrier and technical nature of the instruction, said SSG Kevin Rast of the 27th Engineer Bat-



Veterinary soldiers participating in the CARAT exercise vaccinate a young dog found abandoned in Thailand's Wat Yan Sangwarum temple.

PH2 Erin A. Zocco



CW2 Robert Hart of 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group, helps an Omani soldier don protective gear before a mine-clearing exercise.

talion at Fort Bragg, N.C. But one way of dealing with the language problem has been to rely on translators such as SGT Rami El-Souhag, a member of Fort Bragg's 8th Psychological Operations Bn., and to reinforce the instruction with plenty of hands-on training.

The result has been RAO trainers who are more aware of the safety requirements of demining operations and more skilled at managing the demining process and building mine awareness in the general population.

A secondary impact of the training may affect how the RAO interacts with the civilian population.

"Before the U.S. soldiers came, my job was just related to the military. Now it has combined military with civilian," said Nasser Saif Al-Nofli, who prior to the mine-awareness classes was a field engineer tasked with

SSG Jeff Troth

putting up and clearing minefields. "With this training I can serve both my country and my people better." — SSG Jeff Troth, Third U.S. Army/ARCENT PAO

Ankara, Turkey

Baseball Diplomacy

ONE Saturday morning each month, well before daylight, MAJ Russell J. Chun begins a three-hour drive on his way to conduct a very different kind of diplomatic mission. This was Chun's second

summer organizing groups of volunteers from the Office of Defense Cooperation and oth-

ers in the diplomatic community to lead baseball clinics for children in Düzce, a town demolished by earthquakes.

The quakes caused more than \$16 billion in damage to Turkey's industrial heartland in August and November of 1999. More than 23,000 buildings were condemned and 600,000 people were left homeless.

According to a World Relief census, there were more than 240 children in Düzce living in temporary structures, often in nothing more than tents or shipping containers. So Chun and his volunteers spend much of their off-duty time requesting donations from people and organizations back home and try to visit the town once a month to distribute baseball equipment, hand out clothing and toiletries, and bring packed lunches and watermelon for about 150 children.

Turkish-speaking volunteers translate instructions as American coaches lead the children in throwing and batting

practice. Then the children organize by age and sex to play games. Competition is enthusiastic but friendly, and everyone earns a "medal" — a candy bar hung from his or her neck by a ribbon.

The volunteers are sponsored by an organization called GoodSports International, who also sponsored Chun when he coordinated similar baseball programs in the Slovak Republic, where children are at risk from drugs and prostitution.

"For different reasons, in both places, the communities are faced with the long-haul challenges of rebuilding themselves," Chun says. "Baseball doesn't do everything, of course, but family members begin to get involved again through the games.

"No matter where they are, children still need to play and laugh and run around. In fact I think that's our secret weapon in helping communities rebuild," he said. "Having fun." — Nancy Stroer



Nancy Stroer

Even a broken leg couldn't keep MAJ Russell J. Chun "benched" during the American-Turkish baseball clinic held in the earthquake-damaged village of Düzce.